

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 NEA-14

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O R 151035Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4107

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

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EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT UNEXPECTEDLY DEFEATED ON AMNESTY

REF: A) ANKARA 3491; B) ANKARA 3469

SUMMARY: ECEVIT GOVERNMENT FACING CRISIS AS RESULT OF
PARLIAMENTARY DEFEAT ON AMNESTY BILL. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT FACING CRISIS DUE TO UNEXPECTED DEFEAT IN
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MAY 15 ON CRUCIAL ARTICLE FIVE OF AMNESTY
BILL. HOUSE VOTED TO EXCLUDE FROM AMNESTY THOSE OFFENSES
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PRIMIN ECEVIT WAS COMMITTED TO INCLUDE: SO-CALLED "CRIMES

OF THOUGHT" AND COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. TWENTY DEPUTIES OF MINORITY COALITION PARTNER, NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), VOTED WITH OPPOSITION DESPITE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS NSP SUPPORT FOR ECEVIT ON THIS ISSUE ONLY ONE WEEK EARLIER (REF A).

2. MATER CAME TO A HEAD DURING ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE VOTE ON AMNESTY BILL. ACCORDING TO PRESS, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD BEFORE IT THREE VERSIONS OF ARTICLE FIVE: ORIGINAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (AND GOVERNMENT) VERSION, WHICH DID NOT RPT NOT EXCLUDE FROM AMNESTY "CRIMES OF THOUGHT", ETC.; AND SENATE AND MIXED PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE VERSIONS WHICH DID. SPEAKER ACCEPTED MOTION TO VOTE FIRST ON MIXED COMMITTEE VERSION, WHICH PASSED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY OF 221 TO 214 - ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED - AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SENATE VERSIONS NEVER CAME TO A VOTE.

3. AFTER VOTE, PRIMIN ECEVIT WAS ASKED IF GOVERNMENT WOULD RESIGN. HE REPLIED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. HE SAID THAT CABINET WOULD MEET TO CONSIDER WHAT TO DO NEXT AND THAT HE WANTED TO CONSULT HIS PARTY'S ORGANS.

4. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL MEET AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON (MAY 15) TO FINISH ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE VOTE AND THEN TO VOTE ON AMNESTY BILL AS A WHOLE. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME WILL TRY - OR IS PERMITTED UNDER LEGISLATIVE RULES - TO PRESS FOR A VOTE ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VERSION OF ARTICLE FIVE OF AMNESTY.

5. COMMENT: AS SET FORTH IN REF B, BASIC INTERESTS OF BOTH COALITION PARTNERS LIE IN CONTINUING IN OFFICE AND TRYING TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE RECORD. HOWEVER, HIGH LEVEL OF FRUSTRATION AND RESENTMENT WHICH NSP DEFECTIONS SEEM TO HAVE PRODUCED IN COALITION COULD MOTIVATE ECEVIT TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT DEFECTIONS COULD RESULT IN SPLIT IN NSP AND LOSS OF GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN EITHER CASE FRESH SEARCH FOR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED IN SAME DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES AS LAST NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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